

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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SUBJ: SUPPRESSION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MAGAZINE

REF: SANTIAGO 7495

1. SUMMARY: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MAGAZINE "POLITICA Y ESPIRITU" REMAINS CLOSED. EDITOR JAIME CASTILLO REQUESTS GOC REVOCATION OF SUSPENSION DECREE. GOC ISSUES STRONG STATEMENT AGAINST CASTILLO, THEN WITHDRAWS IT. SUSPENSION OF MAGAZINE PROBABLY HELPS CONVINCE PARTY THAT GOC DESIRES TO DESTROY IT, AND ALSO INDICATES GOC INTOLERANCE OF INDEPENDENT INTELLECTUAL CRITICISM.
END SUMMARY.

2. REFTTEL REPORTED SUSPENSION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MAGAZINE "POLITICA Y ESPIRITU". EDITOR JAIME CASTILLO, A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (PDC) IDEOLOGUE AND RESPECTED LAWYER, SUBSEQUENTLY REQUESTED GOC REVOCATION OF SUSPENSION DECREE. CASTILLO MAINTAINED MAGAZINE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN CARRYING ON ALLEGEDLY ANTI-PATRIOTIC CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOC AS GOVERNMENT CENSORS REVIEWED EACH ISSUE BEFORE PUBLICATION.

3. OFFICIAL GOC STATEMENT RE SUSPENSION WAS READ ON
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NATIONAL TV NOVEMBER 16 AND REPORTED IN PRESS NOVEMBER 17.

STATEMENT SAID MARXIST ANTI-CHILEAN CAMPAIGN IS FUELED BY INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM WITHIN CHILE; STATED MAGAZINE AND CASTILLO HAD BEEN A SOURCE OF THIS UNPATRIOTIC INFORMATION (EXAMPLE GIVEN WAS "NY TIMES" JUAN DE ONIS NOVEMBER 3 ARTICLE), AND ACCUSED MAGAZINE OF CONTINUALLY ATTACKING GOC AND ABUSING CONCEPT OF A FREE PRESS, ALTHOUGH EDITOR HAD BEEN REPEATEDLY WARNED AGAINST POLITICAL STATEMENTS. GOC STATEMENT ACCUSED CASTILLO OF BEING INVOLVED WITH MOVEMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR). APPARENTLY AS PROOF OF CASTILLO-MIR CONNECTION, STATEMENT NOTED THAT CASTILLO HAD PROVIDED LEGAL COUNSEL TO MIRISTAS DURING 1974 AIR FORCE TRIAL. HANDLED NEGOTIATION OF SAFE CONDUCT ISSUED TO HIS NIECE, MIRISTA CARMEN CASTILLO (SANTIAGO 6553 OF OCTOBER 29, 1974), AND MET WITH HER AND OTHER IN CARACAS TO COORDINATE EXTREMIST ACTION.

4. RECENT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC RADIO BALMACEDA NEWS BROADCAST CARRIED PARTS OF REPORTEDLY LONG AND DETAILED CATEGORICAL DENIAL OF GOC ALLEGATIONS BY CASTILLO.

5. AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 17 GOC DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SAID NOVEMBER 16 GOC STATEMENT WAS UNAUTHORIZED AND DID NOT REFLECT GOC'S OPINION OF CASTILLO.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MOST RECENT OCTOBER ISSUE OF "POLITICA Y ESPIRITU" DID HAVE SOME RATHER STRONG ANTI-GOC STATEMENTS IN IT, GOC SUSPENSION OF MAGAZINE AND ACCUSATIONS AGAINST CASTILLO, A FORMER PDC PRESIDENT, WERE HARSH GOC REACTION AND A HARD BLOW TO PARTY. UNCLEAR WHETHER SUSPENSION WAS KNEE-JERK REACTION TO LATEST ISSUE OR TACTIC IN MORE COMPREHENSIVE ANTI-PDC STRATEGY; NEVERTHELESS, FACT THAT IT HAPPENED SHOULD FURTHER CONVINCE PDC THAT GOC IS INTENT ON DESTROYING THE PARTY.

7. CASTILLO IS RESPECTED LAWYER AND INTELLECTUAL WHO APPEARS VERY CAREFUL TO KEEP HIS ACTIVITIES WITHIN LEGAL BOUNDS. STATEMENT ACCUSING HIM OF INVOLVEMENT WITH MIR VIA HIS LEGAL DEFENSE OF MIRISTAS AND ASSISTANCE TO NIECE WAS APPARENT HEAVY-HANDED ATTEMPT BY GOC TO SHOW GUILT BY ASSOCIATION. GOC'S DENIAL THAT STATEMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS AUTHORIZED OR REPRESENTS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION MAY INDICATE CLEARER HEADS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE UNREASONABLENESS OF STATEMENT'S ACCUSATIONS (WE DOUBT IT WAS READ OVER NATIONAL TV WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION BY A SUFFICIENTLY HIGH GOC OFFICIAL).

8. EPISODE DOES DEMONSTRATE INTOLERANCE WITHIN GOC OF INDEPENDENT INTELLECTUAL OPINION, ESPECIALLY WHEN

INTELLECTUAL IS KNOWN REPRESENTATIVE OF "RECESSED" POLITICAL PARTY.

9. WE NOTE CONTRADICTORY ATTEMPT TO INDICATE
QUILT BY POINTING OUT CASTILLO WAS LAWYER FOR MIRISTA
DURING 1974 FACH TRIAL, WHILE AT SAME TIME GOC USED
FACT THAT LAWYERS REPRESENTED DEFENDANTS AS PROOF OF
GOC'S RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ITS OFFICIAL REBUTTAL TO
UNHRC ACCUSATIONS.
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